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Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies
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Provisional agenda and annotations

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2. Election of the Chairperson.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Tasks of the Expert Group.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

The Coordinator and head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will open the meeting.

2. Election of the Chairperson

In its decision 2003/299, in which it established the Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Chairperson of the Expert Group should be elected from among its experts.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In order to facilitate the work of the Expert Group, the provisional agenda and draft organization of work of the meeting are tabled for consideration.

The Expert Group may wish to consider and adopt the agenda and organization of work. It may also wish to elect a Rapporteur and establish a drafting group or groups to assist the Chairperson in preparing the draft report of the Expert Group.

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4. Tasks of the Expert Group

Part I
Transfer of environmentally sound technologies

(a) Review and assess existing initiatives on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and knowledge diffusion for the promotion of sustainable forest management among countries and sectors and stakeholders

It may be noted that the review and assessment of initiatives should include initiatives through North-South, North-North and South-South cooperation and the programmes of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The review and assessment by the Expert Group should also include an analysis of incentives that promote and obstacles that inhibit the transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies between and/or within countries, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in both the private and public sectors.

(b) Recommend approaches to improve the transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies

The recommendations of the Expert Group may include the role of various policy instruments, such as concessional and preferential terms, public-private partnerships and research cooperation, as well as capacity-building in the use and application of current and emerging environmentally sound technologies, including remote sensing.

Part II
Finance

(c) Consider previous initiatives on finance

Considering the interconnection of sub-item 4 (c), it may be considered in conjunction with sub-items 4 (d), (e), (g) and (h), as relevant.

The Expert Group may wish to consider the recommendations of the Pretoria (1996), Croydon (1999) and Oslo (2001) workshops, relevant Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action, and background papers and strategy documents of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

(d) Assess the role and status of official development assistance directed towards sustainable forest management

In its consideration of sub-item 4 (d), the Expert Group may also wish to consider ways to enhance official development assistance (ODA) availability and effectiveness, and to identify possible means to enhance the efforts of developed countries to fulfil their commitments on ODA.

(e) Review the effectiveness of existing international financing for sustainable forest management

The Expert Group may wish to consider methods and mechanisms of international financing for sustainable forest management; analyse opportunities, country-level gaps, limitations and donor and recipient priorities; and consider the contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests towards financing sustainable forest management. The Expert Group may also wish to propose measures to improve the effectiveness of that financing in enhancing the enabling environment at both the national and international levels and to attract increased financing from all sources.

(f) Assess country experiences towards mobilization of financial resources to support sustainable forest management

Considering the interconnection of sub-item 4 (f), it may be read in conjunction with sub-items 4 (d), (e), (g) and (h), as relevant.

In its consideration of sub-item (f), the Expert Group may wish to consider the identification of gaps, potentials and limitations of current financing sources and financial mechanisms to implement sustainable forest management. It may also wish to propose approaches to enhance and more effectively use and mobilize national and international financial resources.

(g) Assess and consider the role of the private sector in financing sustainable forest management

In its consideration of sub-item (g), the Expert Group may wish to include recommendations of measures to improve the enabling environment for private investment in sustainable forest management, at both the national and international levels, and to encourage increased private resource flows to the forest sector, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

(h) Explore the potential of new and innovative approaches to attract increased financing for sustainable forest management

In its consideration of sub-item (h), the Expert Group may wish to include a discussion with suggestions for the expanded use of those approaches to address the need for financial resources for financing sustainable forest management, including through national forest programmes or equivalent processes.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the finance of environmentally sound technologies (E/CN.18/AC.2/2003/__)

Note by the Secretariat on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (E/CN.18/AC.2/2003/__)

5. Other matters

The Expert Group may wish to discuss other related matters.

6. Adoption of the report

In its decision 2003/299, the Economic and Social Council decided that the proposals and recommendations of the Expert Group should be provided by consensus, and that in the absence of consensus the report of the Expert Group should fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

In the same decision, the Council decided that the Expert Group should prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and should submit that report to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its fourth session. The report should specify the major outcomes of the Expert Group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.